organized by Safety Organization.

(b) Does not arise.

Introduction of Palace on Wheels Train from Hyderabad

1004. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Palace on Wheels train from Hyderabad, to attract foreign tourists to various places of attraction in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Derailments of Passenger and Goods Trains

1005. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many derailments of passenger and goods trains took place during 1999;

(b) what was the loss incurred by the Railways on account of these derailments;

(c) what are the reasons for these derailments; and

(d) what steps are being taken to minimize them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There were 99 derailments of passenger trains and 223 goods trains during the year 1999.

(b) Loss incurred by the Railways on account of these derailments was Rs. 43.67 crores (approximately).

(c) Causes of derailments:—

Cause	No. of derailments
Failure of Railway Staff	228
Other than Railway Staff	10
Equipment failure	17
Sabotage	19
Incidental	10
Combination	16
Cause not established	5
Under investigation	17

(d) Steps taken to prevent accidents are briefly as follows:

1. There has been progressive increase in use of Tie Tamping and ballast cleaning machines for track maintenance.

2. For monitoring track geometry and running characteristics of the track, sophisticated track recording cars, oscillograph cars and portable accelerometer are being progressively used.

3. For detecting rail fractures and weld failure 96 more double rail Ultra Sonic Flaw Detectors are being procured.

4. Maintenance facilities for coaches and wagons have been modernised and upgraded at many depots.

5. To prevent cases of cold breakage of axles, ROH Depots have been equipped with ultrasonic testing equipment for detection of flaws in the axles.

6. Periodic Safety Audit of different divisions by inter-disciplinary teams from zonal headquarters has been introduced.

7. Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

8. Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Railway Projects in Himachal Pradesh

1006. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of railway projects surveyed in Himachal Pradesh so far, since independence;

(b) the number of projects implemented so far, out of these surveyed projects;

(c) the number of projects under survey at present; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to implement these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Nine numbers.

(b) Three numbers, details are as under:—

(i) Ropar to Una:—Since opened for traffic.

(ii) The work on Una-Talwara Section of Nangal Dam-Talwara section is in progress.

(iii) Kalka—Kamli (Parwanoo):—Final location survey has been taken up. This will be followed by land acquisition and work will be taken up once land becomes available.

(c) and (d) The following two surveys are in progress in the State of Himachal Pradesh:—

(i) Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for a new broad-guage line from Hoshiarpur to Una.